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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,069	09/23/2003	James E. Roddy	86087NAB	2729

7590 01/11/2005

Milton S. Sales
Patent Legal Staff
Eastman Kodak Company
343 State Street
Rochester, NY 14650-2201

EXAMINER

GRAY, DAVID M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,069

Applicant(s)

RODDY ET AL.

Examiner

David M Gray

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/23/03.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Ramanujan et al. and Doany et al.

Rhoads discloses providing a digitally exposed watermark on a photographic medium in order to protect the content thereof. Rhoads differs from the claimed invention in that Rhoads discloses using a CRT for the exposure. Ramanujan et al. teaches that an exposure means comprising a light source and a spatial light modulator are preferable to a CRT means. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of applicant's invention to substitute the exposure apparatus of Ramanujan et al. for the CRT in the watermarking system. One would have been motivated to save cost and enhance the exposed image.

Ramanujan et al. discloses a printing system having “(a) an illumination source [30] for providing an exposure illumination; (b) a first spatial light modulator [52] for modulating said exposure illumination to form a first exposure pattern according to first image data; (e) a transport [inherent in order to provide for a two dimensional image] for providing, during exposure, lengthwise displacement of the photosensitive medium with respect to said single output path.” Ramanujan et al. differs from the claimed invention in that Ramanujan et al. does not provide a second light modulator that alternates with the first light modulator.

Doany et al. teaches providing a “(c) a second spatial light modulator [22, 22 or 42,44] for modulating said exposure illumination to form a second exposure pattern according to second

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image data; (d) combining optics [24] providing a single output path for directing said first and second exposure patterns onto the photosensitive medium; wherein said first and second spatial light modulators cyclically alternate in providing respective first and second exposure patterns to said combining optics, such that during a cycle wherein said first spatial light modulator forms said first exposure pattern, said second spatial light modulator loads the image data for providing said second exposure pattern; and said first and second exposure patterns thereby forming, lengthwise along the photosensitive medium, said latent image comprising modulated stripes having a predetermined intensity corresponding to said first and second exposure patterns [see col 2, lns 54-64].” It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of applicant's invention to provide a second spatial light modulator in Ramanujan et al. for the benefit of increased performance as taught by Doany et al.

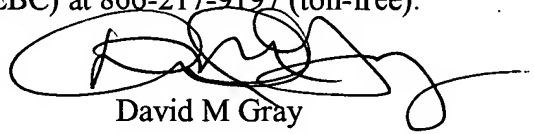
The remaining claims are likewise met by Rhoads in view of Ramanujan et al. and Doany et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M Gray whose telephone number is 571-272-2119. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M Gray', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

David M Gray
Primary Examiner
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